GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:820
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2007
RAILWAY FACILITIES FOR SABARIMALA PILGRIMAGE IN KERALA
Chandrappan Shri C.K.;Ravindran Shri Pannian

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Kerala has made special request for Special Train Service, stoppages of trains at important stations, sufficient number of additional bogies, Information Centre at important stations which would function round the clock;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Railways thereto;

(c) whether the railways are also considering to issue time table for Sabarimala pilgrimage season in Tamil, Kannada, Telegu and other languages;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Railways would also take steps for the expeditious implementation for the proposed Rail lines touching Sabarimala;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the other steps taken by the Railways to meet the unprecedented rush of pilgrims during the ensuing Sabarimal pilgrimage in Kerala?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU)

(a) : No, Sir.

(b) : Does not arise.

(c) : No, Sir.

(d) : Does not arise.

(e) and (f): Work on Angamli-Sabarimala new line has already been included in the budget 1997-1998. However, on Sabarimala end, this new line has been decided to be terminated at Azhutha, short of Reserved Forest Area. Work on this new line has been affected due to objections from the landowners. So far, State Government has made available only 68.60 hectare out of 516.42 hectare of land to the Railways. The work would be progressed depending upon availability of resources once the land is made available by State Government.

(g): Railway has planned 13 pairs of special trains between Chennai Central and Kottayam and 29 pairs of special trains between Chennai Egmore and Thiruvananthpuram for Sabarimala pilgrims. Besides, 2695/2696 Chennai Central-Thiruvananthpuram Central Express, which passes through Kottayam, have been augmented with 5 coaches on permanent basis.